

Daily Honolulu Press.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1885

so a house. I began to wish the spare room at Verkhov, or so on further. But relief was at hand, and it came from a most unexpected quarter indeed, in a shape which at first sight seemed to threaten an aggravation of our grievance. I have no doubt a disciple of Hahnemann would claim it as a grand exemplification of homopathic principles. It certainly was a case of similia similibus curantur. But the reader shall judge for himself.

I don't think I have yet mentioned that I myself have a mother living, a good old soul, without any of Mrs. Dimply's town-bred graces, but with a remarkably keen old lady, and Yorkshire to the backbone. Mrs. Dimply has been with us just four weeks, when one morning I received a telegram, as follows:

To B. A. SMITHERS, M. R. C. S., 17 Jesamine Villas, St. John's Woods, N. W.: Letter just to hand from Brodby & Griggs, saying I must come up to town at once. Shall rely on you to give me a bed. Meet me at station at 7. MRS. SMITHERS.

"Dear me," she said, "I'm afraid that will be very inconvenient for both parties. And I am such a very light sleeper! Couldn't it be arranged for Mrs. Smithers to sleep at a hotel? I don't mind on my own account in the least, but I should think it would be so much more comfortable for her." I explained that my mother, being country-bred and unused to London ways, would feel nervous in a strange house; but if Mrs. Dimply thought it necessary I would secure a room for her at a hotel. This suggestion did not meet her views at all. "Oh dear no, don't think of such a thing on my account," she said. "I suppose your mother won't stay very long, and we must make the best of it. I dare say we shan't quarrel," she added, with her accustomed sweetness.

Seven o'clock came, and I met my mother at the Great Northern station. On our way homeward I told her that she must excuse our only being able to give her half a bed, as Rosa's mother was staying with us. "What's that for?" she said in surprise. "Rosa isn't ill, is she?"

"Oh dear no," I said. "She never was better, I am happy to say."

"Then is she so weak or so foolish that she must always be tied to her mother's apron strings? I suppose it's her doing?"

"Oh dear no," I said. "Mrs. Dimply invited herself, and between you and me I think poor Rosa is as tired of her company as I am, but of course she doesn't like to be undutiful."

"Un-dutiful!" said my mother. "That's how the land lies, is it? And how long has she been with you?"

"Four weeks," I said.

"My poor dear boy, why she must have taken possession the very first week after you got home."

"Not quite that," I said, "but very soon after."

"Hum!" said my mother, "and she is very good. If I don't make things lively for her my name's not Betty Smithers! You leave it to me."

"But what do you intend to do?" I said.

"Never you mind; you just leave it to me. And not another word could I get out of her."

On reaching home my mother kissed Rosa with great affection, and the two mothers-in-law saluted each other with ceremonious politeness. I hardly know why, but they reminded me somewhat of pugilists at a sparring match, shaking hands before they begin to punch one another's heads.

"It is a curious coincidence, Mrs. Dimply," said my mother, beaming amiably through her spectacles, "that you and I should have hit on the very same day to come and visit these young people."

"This was a gentle facet, but Mrs. Dimply came up smiling. "Oh, I have been here—some days," she replied.

"Mamma came on the 30th of last month," interrupted Rosa, who wasn't going to have any mistake upon that subject.

"Dear me, so long as that!" said my mother, lifting her eyebrows. "Don't your other daughters miss you very much, Mrs. Dimply?"

"Well, they are beginning to complain a little. In fact, I was only saying this morning that as soon as dear Rosa can spare me I really must take my departure." (If she had said anything of the kind I'm a Dutchman, but of course we didn't contradict her.)

"No doubt, it is very nice for Rosa to have you," (Rosa made a little face at me, privately, over her mamma's shoulder) but I think the sooner young people get out of leading strings the better. Nothing teaches housekeeping like a few mistakes to begin with."

"Yes, perhaps so," said Mrs. Dimply; "but dear Rosa is so very inexperienced."

"No doubt," said my mother still more sweetly. "I suppose all young wives are at first starting, but the inexperienced soon rubs off when they are left to their own devices. Never fear, Rosa, my dear, you'll soon learn your business if you are let alone."

Mrs. Dimply looked uncomfortable and changed the subject, rather to my own relief. We had supper that evening, my mother being in the habit of dining at midday, and soon after the cloth was removed Mrs. Dimply, complaining that she felt tired, went to bed. My mother sat chatting for an hour or so longer, and then she, too, wished us good night, and retired.

I felt a little anxious as to how the old and new tenants of the spare room would get on together, their habits being as unlike as well as could be. Mrs. Dimply was, if I may be permitted the expression, rather "stuffy" in her ways. She liked a fire in her bedroom and warm water to wash with, and was dreadfully afraid of draughts. My mother affected cold baths, slept with her window open summer and winter, and always declared that she could not breathe in a close room. Mrs. Dimply liked to lie in bed in the morning, and found it hard work to get down stairs in time for breakfast. My mother set her alarm for 5 in the summer and 6 in the winter, and did a couple of hours' work of some kind or other before breakfast. I did not know how far she would transplant her country habits to London, but the next morning punctually at 6, Rosa and I were awakened by a sound like a sky rocket of the largest size suddenly going off in the joining room.

"Good gracious! what's that dreadful noise?" said Rosa.

"That's mother's pet alarm," I said, laughing. "She would never forgive herself if she didn't get up at her usual time."

"But what about your poor mother?" said Rosa, laughing in her turn. "She'll be frightened out of her wits!"

"Oh, she'll get used to it after a day or two, and perhaps we shall have her down in proper time for breakfast, which is more than she had been for the last three mornings."

"Ah—um!" said Rosa.

"What did you say?" I inquired, but I found she has gone to sleep again.

When we went down to breakfast, my mother was already in the dining-room. Rosa asked her how she had slept. "Capital, my dear," she said, "Thank you. I can always sleep well. But I'm afraid your mamma did not have a very good night. Between ourselves, she was a little indiscreet at supper, and she has suffered for it."

At the Philadelphia electric exhibition an organist plays an organ 130 feet away from his instrument. If a street organ could be thus manipulated, it would be much safer for the Italian who agitated the crank—but what would be the fate of his organ?

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